

# NOT YET TIME TO LIFT CURBS: DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for sanctions against the Pretoria regime to continue until the blacks in South Africa are fully liberated.

The Prime Minister said many people thought it was time to cease sanctions against South Africa but "we are not convinced and will continue to pressure South Africa."

He said the Pretoria regime was "now acting more like civilised people" and there were results which would improve the lot of the blacks but Malaysia did not think it was enough.

Dr Mahathir pledged that Malaysia would continue to play an active role against apartheid in all forums, particularly in the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

He said Malaysia would apply as much pressure as possible against South Africa and urged all other countries to do so.

Speaking at a rally with African National Congress (ANC) deputy president Nelson Mandela, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had sacrificed a lot of revenue because of sanctions against South Africa.

"We know that some of our produce have been re-directed to South Africa and as a result, we have lost a lot of money but we believe it is a worthwhile sacrifice," he added.

Thousands of people, waving the national and ANC flags, attended the rally at Stadium Negara held in honour of the black nationalist leader who is on a four-day official visit here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia believed that its action was not only good for the blacks but also for democracy.

"We believe in democracy and majority rule but that does not mean we believe in the oppression of the minority," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was looking forward to the day when a freed South Africa re-joined the Commonwealth.

"We are even willing to propose (a freed) South Africa for membership. We recently welcomed Namibia as the 50th Commonwealth member. South Africa must take its place as the 51st," he said.

He expressed hope that South Africa would have re-joined the Common-

wealth before Malaysia next hosts the summit meeting.

Dr Mahathir said first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman had played a major role in fighting apartheid.

"It was Tunku Abdul Rahman, the then Prime Minister, who argued with the South African Prime Minister at the Commonwealth conference in London. Following this, South Africa was expelled from the Commonwealth," he said.

On the commitment of Mr Mandela against apartheid, Dr Mahathir described him as a nationalist who had withstood all forms of oppression and had emerged neither broken nor bitter after spending 27 years in jail.

"He is not a racist. He does not want to establish black supremacy and he is not fighting the white government just because it is white," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the ANC fighters were the "most ardent nationalists

the world has even seen" and that they were not just revolutionaries but freedom fighters.

Mr Mandela, he said, believed that South Africa is a country rich in resources which could be shared by all races.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia and South Africa had several similarities, one of which was that they were multi-racial.

"But we have been fortunate because although there are differences between the races, we have lived in harmony except for one incident in 1969," he said.

On Mr Mandela's visit which was postponed because of the general election, Dr Mahathir quipped: "We do not use our guest for our own interest. That is why we asked him to postpone his visit until after the general election."

But he added that "even without help we (the Barisan Nasional) still won."